

Hath all his ventures faild, what not one hit,
From Tripolis, from Mexico and England,
From Lisbon, Barbary, and India,
And not one vessell scape the dreadfull touch
Of Merchant-marring rocks?

Sal. Not one my Lord,
Besides, it should appeare, that if he had
The present money to discharge the Jew,
He would not take it: neuer did I know
A creature that did beare the shape of man
So keene and greedy to confound a man.
He plyes the Duke at morning and at night,
And doth impeach the freedome of the state
If they deny him iustice. Twenty Merchants,
The Duke himselfe, and the Magnificoes
Of greatest port haue all perswaded with him,
But none can driue him from the enuious plea
Of forfeiture, of iustice, and his bond.

Iessi. When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare
To *Tuball* and to *Chius*, his Countrey-men,
That he would rather haue *Antonio's* flesh,
Then twenty times the value of the summe
That he did owe him: and I know my Lord,
If law, authoritie, and power denie not,
It will goe hard with poore *Antonio*.

Por. Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble?

Bass. The deereft friend to me, the kindest man,
The best condition'd, and vnwearied spirit
In doing curtesies: and one in whom
The ancient Romane honour more appeares
Then any that drawes breath in Italie.

Por. What summe owes he the Jew?

Bass. For me three thousand ducats.

Por. What, no more?

Pay him fixe thousand, and deface the bond:
Double fixe thousand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this description
Shall lose a haire through *Bassanio's* fault.
First goe with me to Church, and call me wife,
And then away to Venice to your friend:
For neuer shall you lie by *Portias* side
With an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.
When it is payd, bring your true friend along,
My maid *Nerrissa*, and my selfe meane time
Will liue as maids and widdowes; come away,
For you shall hence vpon your wedding day:
Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheere,
Since you are deere bought, I will loue you deere.
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

Sweet Bassanio, my ships haue all miscarried, my Creditors grow cruell, my estate is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfeit, and since in paying it, it is impossible I should liue, all debts are cleerd betwene you and I, if I might see you at my death: notwithstanding, use your pleasure, if your loue doe not perswade you to come, let not my letter.

Por. O loue! dispatch all busines and be gone.

Bass. Since I haue your good leaue to goe away,
I will make hast; but till I come againe,
No bed shall ere be guilty of my stay,
Nor rest be interpos'd twixt vs twaine.

Enter the Jew, and Solanio, and Antonio, and the Taylor.

Jew. Taylor, looke to him, tell not me of mercy,

This is the foole that lends out money gratis,
Taylor, looke to him!

Ant. Heare me yet good *Shylock*.

Jew. He haue my bond, speake not against my bond,
I haue sworne an oath that I will haue my bond:
Thou call'st me dog before thou hadst a cause,
But since I am a dog, beware my phangs,
The Duke shall grant me iustice, I do wonder
Thou naughty Taylor, that thou art so fond
To come abroad with him at his request.

Ant. I pray thee heare me speake.

Jew. He haue my bond, I will not heare thee speake,
He haue my bond, and therefore speake no more,
He not be made a soft and dull ey'd foole,
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yeeld
To Christian intercessors: follow not,
He haue no speaking, I will haue my bond.

Sol. It is the most impenetrable curre
That euer kept with men.

Ant. Let him alone,

He follow him no more with bootlesse prayers:
He seeks my life, his reason well I know;
I oft deliuer'd from his forfeitures
Many that haue at times made mone to me,
Therefore he hates me.

Sol. I am sure the Duke will neuer grant
this forfeiture to hold.

Ant. The Duke cannot deny the course of law:

For the commoditie that strangers haue
With vs in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the iustice of the State,
Since that the trade and profit of the city
Consisteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
These griefes and losses haue so bated mee,
That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
To morrow, to my bloody Creditor.

Well Taylor, on spray God *Bassanio* come
To see me pay his debt, and then I care not.

Enter Portia, Nerrissa, Lorenzo, Iessica, and a man of Portia.

Lor. Madam, although I speake it in your presence,
You haue a noble and a true conceit
Of god-like amity, which appeares most strongly
In bearing thus the absence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you shew this honour,
How true a Gentleman you send releefe,
How deere a louer of my Lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the worke
Then customary bounty can enforce you.

Por. I neuer did repent for doing good,
Nor shall not now: for in companions
That do conuerse and waste the timetogether,
Whose soules doe beare an egal yoke of loue,
There must be needs a like proportion
Of lymaments, of manners, and of spirit;
Which makes me thinke that this *Antonio*
Being the bosome louer of my Lord,
Must needs be like my Lord. If it be so,
How little is the cost I haue bestowed
In purchasing the semblance of my soule;
From out the state of hellish cruelty,
This comes too neere the praising of my selfe;
Therefore no more of it: heere other things
Lorenzo I commit into your hands.

The husbandry and mannage of my house,
Vntill my Lords returne; for mine owne part
I haue toward heauen breath'd a secret vow,
To liue in prayer and contemplation,
Onely attended by *Nerrissa* heere,
Vntill her husband and my Lords returne:
There is a monastery too miles off,
And there we will abide. I doe desire you
Not to denie this imposition,
The which my loue and some necessity
Now layes vpon you.

Lorenzo. Madam, with all my heart,
I shall obey you in all faire commands.

Por. My people doe already know my minde,
And will acknowledge you and *Iessica*
In place of Lord *Bassanio* and my selfe.
So far you well till we shall meete againe.

Lor. Faire thoughts & happy houres attend on you.

Iessi. I wish your Ladiship all hearts content.

Por. I thanke you for your wish, and am well pleas'd
To wish it backe on you: faryouwell *Iessica*.

*Now Bassanio, as I haue euer found thee honest true,
So let me finde thee still: take this same letter,
And vse thou all the induer of a man,
In speed to Mantua, see thou render this
Into my cosins hand, Doctor *Belario*,
And looke what notes and garments he doth giue thee,
Bring them I pray thee with imagin'd speed
Vnto the Transept, to the common Ferric
Which trades to Venice; waste no time in words,
But get thee gone, I shall be there before thee.*

Balth. Madam, I goe with all conuenient speed.

Por. Come on *Nerrissa*, I haue worke in hand
That you yet know not of; we'll see our husbands
Before they thinke of vs?

Nerrissa. Shall they see vs?

Portia. They shall *Nerrissa*: but in such a habit,
That they shall thinke we are accomplished
With that we lacke; he hold thee any wager
When we are both accoutered like yong men,
He proue the prettier fellow of the two,
And weare my dagger with the brauer grace,
And speake betwene the change of man and boy,
With a reede voyce, and turne two minfing steps
Into a manly stride; and speake of frayes
Like a fine bragging youth: and tell quaint lyes
How honourable Ladies fought my loue,
Which I denying, they fell sicke and died,
I could not doe withall: then Ile repent,
And wish for all that, that I had not kil'd them;
And twentie of these punie lies Ile tell,
That men shall sweare I haue discontinued schoole
About a twelue moneth: I haue within my minde
A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Iacks,
Which I will practise.

Nerrissa. Why, shall wee turne to men?

Portia. Fie, what a questions that?

If thou wert nere a lewd interpreter:
But come, Ile tell thee all my whole deuice
When I am in my coach, which stayes for vs
At the Parke gate; and therefore haste away,
For we must measure twentie miles to day.

Enter Clowne and Iessica.

Clown. Yes truly; for looke you, the finnes of the

ther are to be laid vpon the ch

you, I feare you, I was alwai

now I speake my agitation of

good cheere, for truly I thinke

but one hope in it that can doe

but a kinde of bastard hope ne

Iessica. And what hope is th

Clown. Marrie you may par

gor you not, that you are not th

Iessi. That were a kinde of b

finnes of my mother should be vi

Clown. Truly then I feare yo

ther and mother: thus when I

fall into *Charibdu* your mother

waies.

Iessi. I shall be sau'd by my h

a Christian.

Clown. Truly the more to b

ans enow before, e'ne as many a

nother: this making of Christi

Hogs, if wee grow all to be po

shortlie haue a rasher on the co

Enter Lorenzo.

Iessi. He tell my husband La

he comes.

Lorenzo. I shall grow iealous

if you thus get my wife into co

Iessi. Nay, you need not fea

and I are out, he tells me flatly

in heauen, because I am a Jewe

you are no good member of f

in conuerting Jewes to Christi

of Porke.

Lorenzo. I shall answere tha

wealth, than you can the gettin

lie: the Moore is with childe b

Clown. It is much that the M

reason: but if he be lesse then

indeed more then I tooke her f

Lorenzo. How euerie foole c

thinke the best grace of witte v

lence, and discouref grow com

but Parrots: goe in sirra, bid t

Clown. That is done sir, they

Lorenzo. Goodly Lord, what

then bid them prepare dinner.

Clown. That is done to sir, o

Lorenzo. Will you couer then

Clown. Not so sir neither, I k

Lorenzo. Yet more quarrelling

shew the whole wealth of thy

thee vnderstand a plaine man i

to thy fellowes, bid them cou

meat, and we will come in to d

Clown. For the table sir, it

meat sir, it shall bee couered

dinner sir, why let it be as hum

uerne.

Lor. O deare discretion, how

The foole hath planted in his r

An Armie of good words, and

A many foolies that stand in bet

Garnisht like him, that for a tri

Defie the matter: how cheer'ft

And now good sweet lay thy o